THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Delhi High Court *vide* its Order dated 17th December, 2002 has suggested that the State and Central Government should examine and consider the feasibility of creation of a fund for providing assistance in rehabilitation of the victims of terrorist action.

(c) and (d) Since the proposal is in the initial stages of examination, it is too early to indicate the time frame by which final decision in the matter would be taken.

Multipurpose National Identity Cards

2239. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI R. P. GOENKA:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Mother of I-Cards 5000 crore Tag" published in the Indian Express dated 13th January, 2003 regarding issuance of the Multipurpose National Identity Cards (MNIC);

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) the difference between the Electoral I-cards issued by the Election Commission of India and MNIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Multipurpose National Identity Card scheme involves creation of an identification system for more than one billion citizens, streamlining the existing machinery for the registration of births and deaths at the grass root level and choices of institutional as well as technological options for creation of a integrated database of personal identities capable of being continuously updated. Given the complexities of the task at hand, it has been decided by the Government to undertake a Pilot Project on

an experimental basis in a few districts/sub-districts of 13 States and Union Territories. The Pilot Project is to be initiated in April, 2003 and expected to be completed within one year.

(c) The electoral identity cards issued by the Election Commission of India is not a universal system of identification based on compulsory registration of Indian citizens. On the other hand, Multipurpose National Identity Cards, apart from providing a credible individual identification system, would also have multifarious socio-economic uses.

Value of mineral production in the country

2240. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of mineral production in the country during the last three years, year-wise and sector-wise;

(b) whether there has been a consistent improvement in the level of production during the recent months in certain sectors while some sectors have lagged behind; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps proposed to be taken with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) a subordinate office under the Ministry of Mines, the total value of mineral production (excluding atomic minerals) in the country year-wise and sector-wise during the last three years is given in the Statement-I. enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) As per information furnished by IBM, Index of mineral production during last three years in given at Statement-II. (*See* below)

From the statistics given in the Index, it can be observed that production index of all sectors has increased in 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and in first nine months of 2002-2003 (April-Dec., 2002) in comparison to 1999-2000.